

American

NEWS & VIEWS

A Daily Newsletter from Public Affairs, American Embassy

June 24, 2011

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Continuation of National Emergency with Respect to North Korea

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary
June 23, 2011

NOTICE**CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO NORTH KOREA**

On June 26, 2008, by Executive Order 13466, the President declared a national emergency pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701-1706) to deal with the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States constituted by the existence and risk of the proliferation of weapons-usable fissile material on the Korean Peninsula. The President also found that it was necessary to maintain certain restrictions with respect to North Korea that would otherwise have been lifted pursuant to Proclamation 8271 of June 26, 2008, which terminated the exercise of authorities under the Trading With the Enemy Act (50 U.S.C. App. 1-44) with respect to North Korea.

On August 30, 2010, I signed Executive Order 13551, which expanded the scope of the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13466 to deal with the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States posed by the continued actions and policies of the Government of North Korea.

On April 18, 2011, I signed Executive Order 13570 to take additional steps to address the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13466, and expanded in Executive Order 13551, to ensure the implementation of the import restrictions contained in United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1718 and 1874 and complement the import restrictions provided for in the Arms Export Control Act.

Because the existence and the risk of proliferation of weapons-usable fissile material on the Korean Peninsula and the actions and policies of the Government of North Korea continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States, the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13466, expanded in scope in Executive Order 13551, and addressed further in Executive Order 13570, and the measures taken to deal with that national emergency, must continue in effect beyond June 26, 2011. Therefore, in accordance with section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C.

1622(d)), I am continuing for 1 year the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13466.

This notice shall be published in the Federal Register and transmitted to the Congress.

BARACK OBAMA

Afghans Seeing Progress from U.S. Civilian Surge, Secretary Clinton Says

By Stephen Kaufman | Staff Writer

Washington — The surge of American civilian workers into Afghanistan to help improve governance, create economic opportunities and support Afghan civil society has made life better for most Afghans, says Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton: "We are and should be encouraged by what we have accomplished."

Speaking to the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee in Washington June 23, Clinton told lawmakers that the tripling in the number of U.S. civilian workers and development experts since January 2009 was meant to "give Afghans a stake in their country's future, and provide credible alternatives to extremism and insurgency."

"It was not, nor was it ever, designed to solve all of Afghanistan's development challenges," she said. Facing difficult circumstances in the country, the civilians have focused on key Afghan ministries and sectors and managed to achieve impressive results.

"Economic growth is up. Opium production is down. Under the Taliban, only 900,000 boys, and no girls, were enrolled in schools; by 2010, 7.1 million students were enrolled, and nearly 40 percent of them girls. Hundreds of thousands of farmers have been trained and equipped with new seeds and other techniques. Afghan women have used more than 100,000 microfinance loans. Infant mortality is down 22 percent," Clinton said.

Afghans are seeing progress "in their streets, their schools, their fields," and the Obama administration remains "committed to fighting corruption and strengthening the rule of law in a very challenging environment," she said.

As the country transitions to full Afghan security control in 2014, the civilian efforts will be shifting from short-term stabilization projects that were largely tied to the U.S. military strategy to "longer-term sustainable development that focuses on spurring growth and integrating Afghanistan into South Central Asia's economy," Clinton said.

Clinton's remarks came one day after President Obama

announced he is removing 33,000 U.S. troops from the country by the end of summer 2012, and that troops will continue to leave at a steady pace as Afghan forces take more security responsibility.

"Our mission will change from combat to support. By 2014, this process of transition will be complete, and the Afghan people will be responsible for their own security," Obama said.

Committee Chairman Senator John Kerry of Massachusetts said the United States has met its major goal of significantly disrupting al-Qaida and reducing its presence in the country.

"Our strategy has given the Afghans the opportunity to build and defend their own country — something, incidentally, that they have done for centuries without our help," Kerry said.

The committee's ranking Republican member, Senator Richard Lugar of Indiana, urged the Obama administration to more narrowly define what "success" in Afghanistan would mean in terms of U.S. vital interests and what is possible for it to achieve.

"Undoubtedly, we will make some progress when we are spending over \$100 billion per year in that country. The more important question is whether we have an efficient strategy for protecting our vital interests over the long term that does not involve massive, open-ended expenditures and does not require us to have more faith than is justified in Afghan institutions," Lugar said.

Clinton said the Obama administration is trying to "move in a direction that will leave a stable Afghanistan." It would not necessarily be a perfect nation-state, but would have the stability to "defend itself against both overt and covert challenges to its security," she said.

The United States is supporting an Afghan-government-led political process with the Taliban and supports the reconciliation of Taliban who renounce violence, abandon al-Qaida, and abide by Afghanistan's constitution, including its protections for women, she said.

"Any potential for peace will be subverted if women or ethnic minorities are marginalized or silenced. And the United States will not abandon our values or support a political process that undoes the social progress that has been made in the past decade," Clinton said.

"We believe that a political solution that meets these conditions is possible," and the Taliban have a clear choice: "Be part of Afghanistan's future or face unrelenting assault," she said.

U.S. Enters New Era in Ocean Governance

By Charlene Porter | Staff Writer

Washington — From remote corners of the nation, from the farthest Pacific territories, members of U.S. ocean communities came to Washington June 21–23 to undertake a task never before attempted on a national scale.

They are offering up their ideas, needs and questions to support a new national policy for the oceans, the coastlines and the Great Lakes. They are the pioneers in what the head of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) calls "a new era for ocean governance" that will empower the nation's diverse geographic interests to develop plans cooperatively, thus reducing conflicts over uses of America's coastal waters.

Marine ecologist and NOAA Administrator Jane Lubchenco explained the concept in an early June speech: "an era when our scientific understanding of the impacts of humans on coastal and ocean ecosystems is being used to inform our management decisions; an era when policy connects jobs, communities and economies with healthy ecosystems."

In proclaiming June as National Oceans Month, President Obama explained how the oceans that lap American shores play such a large role in the country's work and play, its prosperity and serenity.

"Waterborne commerce, sustainable commercial fisheries, recreational fishing, boating, tourism, and energy production are all able to contribute to job growth and strengthen our economy because of the bounty of our oceans, coasts and Great Lakes," Obama said. "While we embrace our oceans as crucial catalysts for trade, bountiful sources of food, and frontiers for renewable energy, we must also recommit to ensuring their safety and sustainability, and to being vigilant guardians of our coastal communities."

The numbers speak to the economic significance of the seas: in 2007, 2.3 million jobs and more than \$138 billion of the U.S. gross domestic product were generated by ocean-related activities. About 156 million people live in coastal counties, where they hold 69 million jobs that contribute \$7.9 trillion to the nation's economy.

In June 2010, Obama set a process in motion to balance and serve these varied interests when he authorized adoption of a National Policy for the Stewardship of the Ocean, Our Coasts, and the Great Lakes. Major goals, certainly, but achieving them is just beginning.

"You will determine the path," said Lubchenco to the diverse Washington audience of several hundred

representing almost as many interests. State, county and city officeholders were present, along with fishermen, Native Americans, regulators, environmental group and military members.

The nation's heritage and history have a role in this process, and they took form in names and faces at the planning workshop. Micah McCarty is the chairman of the Makah Tribal Council, which represents a Native American tribe in the state of Washington. His tribe has had an agreement with the federal government on shared use and access to coastal resources that dates back 150 years, creating a "profound" example of mutual cooperation in resource use, he said.

While the new policy has a Washington birthplace, it is supposed to take shape in each and every jurisdiction along the more than 150,000 kilometers of coastline.

In Broward County, Florida, on the Atlantic coast, "We are on the front lines," said Kristin Jacobs, a Broward county commissioner. "We're the people that the public is going to run to" when they see high tides breaching sea walls and flooding low-lying streets and homes. Those events are occurring frequently in some areas of the Florida Peninsula, which is bounded by the Atlantic on the east and the Gulf of Mexico on the west.

Jacobs said her county and several others began working together several years ago to develop a comprehensive regional response to the rising waters she attributes to global warming. But that's a rare gesture. Coastal governing bodies have a history of considering ocean issues "one permit at a time," said Michael Weiss, of the White House Council on Environmental Quality.

In common practice, citizens and businesses appeal to local governing bodies one by one, seeking permits to build a sea wall, a fishing pier or a high-rise hotel on the sands. A long-range plan to balance competing interests and maintain sustainability of the resource for all users never has been part of these decision-making processes, until now.

That is what the National Ocean Policy will seek to achieve. Decisions about the use of coastal resources will be made in a more holistic way, Weiss said, giving all involved parties a voice in the discussion from the beginning to "plan human activities in concert with conservation."

What's Race Got to Do with It?

By Lauren Monsen | Staff Writer

Washington — Does the concept of race have any scientific foundation, or is it merely a social construct? What is the so-called "one-drop rule," and how has it

shaped perceptions about racial identity?

These questions, among others, are probed by the traveling exhibition "RACE: Are We So Different?," which opened June 18 at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History in Washington.

The exhibition, a project of the American Anthropological Association in collaboration with the Science Museum of Minnesota, is divided into three categories: science, history and lived experience. Personal videos, interactive stations and informational panels invite museum visitors to join a broader dialogue about the effects of race and racism, from experiences in the school cafeteria to buying a home.

"New scientific understandings about human variation demonstrate that human populations are not clearly defined, biologically distinct groups that some people call races," said Mary Jo Arnoldi, chair of the anthropology department at the National Museum of Natural History and Smithsonian curator of the exhibition.

The exhibition's science section traces early human migration from Africa, using current research to reassess widely held beliefs about the origins of physical traits such as skin color and resistance to disease.

The history section traces racism from the pre-Columbus era to modern genetic studies.

The lived-experience section includes the voices and images of people who share their experiences of race, identity and racism.

Displays in the exhibition cater to visitors of all ages. For example, the "Who's Talking?" interactive station asks visitors to match voices they hear with photos of people of different races to see if they can identify a person's race by his or her speech. A "Youth on Race" video features teenagers of different races and ethnicities talking about their experiences in the classroom, in the school cafeteria and outside school.

Another video, titled "We All Live Race," focuses on the role that race plays in everyone's lives, from an interracial couple living in the Midwest to an Asian-born girl with white adoptive parents to a black woman raising two sons.

Yolanda Moses, lead curator of the traveling exhibition and an anthropologist and vice provost at the University of California, Riverside, described the exhibition's main objectives.

"One of the things we all worked hard to do in designing this exhibition was to make the section 'The Lived

Experience' come alive in the personal stories of everyday citizens," she said. "We wanted people from all walks of life in America to be able to talk about how race is both personal and systemic in their lives."

MULTIRACIAL AMERICA

The Smithsonian will host a series of programs and events related to the exhibition. One is a July 21 panel discussion inspired by the book *Blended Nation: Portraits and Interviews of Mixed-Race America*. It will be led by *Blended Nation* co-authors Mike Tauber and Pamela Singh.

Immigration and intermarriage in the United States have produced rising numbers of multiracial and multiethnic Americans, Tauber said. Yet even today, "there seems to be some confusion among many in the general population as to who and what is considered mixed-race or multiracial."

"A key question that many multiracial Americans hear is: What are you? Another challenge that many experience is a mismatch between their visual appearance and identity," he said. *Blended Nation* presents essays by multiracial people explaining how they define themselves and how they fit into the fabric of society.

The panel's goal, Tauber said, "is to include the topic of being mixed-race into the larger and increasingly complex conversation" about race in America.

Beating Corruption by Building Consensus

By Jeff Baron | Staff Writer

Washington — Brian Pinkowski started his career by dealing with environmental disasters, but he's become an expert in governmental ones.

It turns out that pollution and corruption have a lot in common.

The jobs, he says, are not as different as you might think. As a project manager for many years in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Superfund program coping with some of the nation's most serious cases of industrial pollution, he worked with communities, environmental groups, local and national businesses, and local and national governments. "I looked at Superfund as [a] process of helping design a solution that built agreement across all of those groups," he said in an email interview. "Because there were so many emotionally charged elements to deal with, it was very similar to development work.

"I helped communities and government find solutions to challenging social problems — I still do," he said. Pinkowski is a consultant in democracy and governance,

anti-corruption efforts and the rule of law. Originally trained in civil and environmental engineering, and later in law, he works around the world helping countries and companies engineer an environment that can produce effective policies without corruption.

He said his work in Southern Sudan provides a strong example. For two years, as residents worked toward a referendum to establish their independence from Sudan, they also developed a consensus on building a clean and open civil society and government.

"Over 2,000 opinion leaders participated and were involved in discussing and sharing thoughts about how to help their society achieve its larger goals," Pinkowski said. "The discussions were well beyond the notions of bribery and into the ideas about building a society and protecting it from decay."

The result was the Southern Sudan Anticorruption Strategy, which he said could be a model for other countries. "It can be replicated, but most development programs are too impatient," he said. "Where a society has been struggling to pull things beyond a certain level for more than 75 years, patience with process is critical. And the process includes an extensive education and awareness piece.

Government processes that shut out public participation and public scrutiny tend to produce poor policies, which in turn weaken the society, Pinkowski said. "People want to build good things, generally," he added. "Thus, involving them in the process is critical."

He offered an example from his current assignment for the Millennium Challenge Corporation and U.S. Agency for International Development.

In Timor Leste, Pinkowski said, only one company is authorized to provide Internet service, and using any other is illegal. Internet service is poor and expensive, and people suspect that government employees are getting a kickback from the Internet company. The poor quality of service harms the economy and encourages further corruption. People "will bring in illegal satellite equipment and risk serious jail time to avoid being trapped by this failed policy," Pinkowski said. "They are breaking the law, and often bribing officials to avoid prosecution — but they are doing so because the policy/law is believed to be corrupt."

This sort of "no-confidence vote" is one of the major reasons people don't follow established policies in governments and other organizations, Pinkowski said. The two others, he says in a 2010 booklet on fighting corruption in organizations, are criminal intent and ignorance of the policy or what it means.

Pinkowski has worked on anti-corruption and pro-democracy efforts in Iraq and Kenya as well as Southern Sudan, Timor Leste and elsewhere. He is a board member of the Africa Foundation for Human Rights & Tolerance (East Africa), based in Nairobi, Kenya.

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